

Carter Order Reorganizes Intelligence Operations

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Reacting to past excesses by U.S. intelligence agencies, President Carter today signed an intelligence agency reorganization order that seeks to protect citizens' rights with rigid new rules.

The rigidity raised questions among some experienced observers about how workable the new restrictions might prove to be in any future time of troubles. But the text of the executive order left room for suspicion that intelligence organizations might find some loopholes.

The order specifically bans electronic surveillance by the CIA inside the United States, assassinations and "research on human subjects" without their permission and adherence to official guidelines.

It also expands the power of the director of central intelligence, currently Adm. Stansfield Turner, over the budgets and assignments of not only the CIA, which he directs, but also the entire intelligence community.

BUT THE ORDER falls short of the sweeping authority that Turner reportedly sought or the status that he wanted, including a Cabinet seat.

It came into effect as mounting criticism of Turner for his management of the CIA reached a peak with reports of efforts by key administration officials to have him sacked.

Although officially denied by spokesmen for some of those officials, the reports reflected complaints heard about Turner at lower levels in the administration. Some officials sought to dismiss the reports as a bureaucratic reaction to the greater authority that the order gives to Turner, with those who oppose his increased power sniping at him.

The order had been promised earlier in the Carter administration as a fulfillment of the president's commitment to provide greater protection for individuals against domestic spying and to insure higher

moral standards in intelligence operations.

Writing such restrictions and trying to replace old secret intelligence directives with one comprehensive public document took longer than officials had expected. Considerable bureaucratic infighting as well as careful legal drafting went into the order.

THE REVISED intelligence structure focuses on four groups, two of them committees of the National Security Council.

The NSC's policy review committee, headed by the director of central intelligence, is given the responsibility for overall guidance of foreign intelligence. A special coordination committee, headed by the president's national security adviser, will make recommendations to the president on special operations and sensitive spying. It will also coordinate counter-intelligence, including work by the FBI in this field.

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